

AC.4412 (1)



~~1. Mr. Fuller~~

~~2. Miss Davidge~~

~~3. Miss Cook, A223~~

4. Library.

Rural District of Maidstone

Annual Report for the Year, 1966

ON

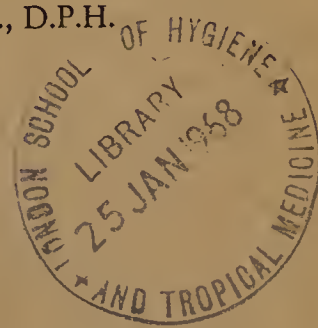
THE HEALTH OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F. H. M. DUMMER,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1966

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F.H.M. DUMMER,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29780305>

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee
(As at 1st January, 1966)

Chairman

Mr. A.E. Fullagar

Vice-Chairman

Colonel H.M. Allfrey

Members

C.G. Allchin
K.C. Banks
P.A.E. Devenish
Mrs. A. Granycome
G.F. Gray
J.A.R. Hall
Mrs. N.D. Herbert

W.J. Holding
Mrs. H.A. Ireland-Blackburne
T.W. Kemsley
P. Morphet
J.L. Short
Captain L.M. Stopford
T.J. Thompson

Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Dr. F.H.H. Dummer,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Dr. J.T. Cecil,
M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

G.W. White,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspectors'
Certificate,
Certificate of Inspector of
Meat and Other Foods, and
Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.

FIRST ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

F.O. Elliott,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspectors'
Certificate,
Certificate of Inspector of
Meat and Other Foods.

SECOND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

J. Barrow,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspectors'
Certificate,
Certificate of Inspector of
Meat and Other Foods.

STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

I.R. Russell,
(Commenced 26/9/66)

CLEANSING FOREMAN :

A.E. Wallace.

RODENT OPERATOR :

T. Curties.

CLERKS TO THE DEPARTMENT :

Miss D. Fuller.
Miss E. Gibbins,
(Retired 8/8/66)
Miss A.M. Humphrey,
(Commenced 15/8/66).

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH : Miss H. Wood.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE

Central Health Department,
13, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone.

Public Health Department,
26, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone.

Telephone: Maidstone 54072

Telephone: Maidstone 56871

To: The Chairman and Members of Maidstone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report on the health of the Rural District of Maidstone.

Last year I wrote of the various indices by which the health of an area is judged. On all these indices once again the health of your District is good. You have a birth rate higher than the national average; a death rate lower than that of England and Wales as a whole; a tuberculosis mortality rate of almost negligible proportions and an infantile mortality rate far below the average for the country.

In the field of infectious diseases 1966 presented no untoward happenings and once again there were no cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria or smallpox notified. This was not a "measles year" but you will see from the table in the Report that no fewer than 115 cases of measles were in fact notified. This is something which we are seeing from year to year, that although a large epidemic of measles occurs every second year, it does not mean that alternate years are free of measles or indeed that measles is concentrated over the short period of the twelve months which was formerly the case.

You will note that in the table for primary vaccinations, the figure remains fairly high at 452. A lot of these are of people who, going abroad, get vaccinated for the first time. Whatever the circumstances in which vaccination takes place, it is a good thing that the end result of an increased community barrier towards smallpox is established.

The remarkable position has been attained this year in tuberculosis of having only two new cases in the whole of the year and only one death. You will see too from the table on page 11, that the number of contacts found to be suffering from tuberculosis was nil.

Those are significant figures when one compares the very heavy death rate and the rising number of new cases only a couple of decades ago. The explanation for this is to be found in the earlier diagnosis of tuberculosis and the more successful domiciliary treatment, with new drugs, of this once dreaded disease.

Once again when we turn to discuss cancer, the position is far from pleasing. In 1966 more deaths than ever before occurred from this cause, i.e., 59. The mortality from cancer of the stomach and of the lung increased, and in the case of the latter, more women than before died from this disease.

This pattern of equality between males and females being reached in the mortality from cancer of the lung, would appear to be an indication of the true casual relationship between cancer of the lung and heavy cigarette smoking. This is now seen in the case of the females whose smoking habits are approximating those of males.

You will note too, from the table on page 12, that there were serious infringements, in the case of cancer, into the younger age groups, although it is still a fact that the heaviest mortality is borne by the older groups.

This Report also contains an account of the work of the Public Health Department as a whole, and in the pages which follow you will read of the efforts which have been made to maintain the good standard of environmental hygiene which has always been a feature of your District.

The main innovation in the field of environmental hygiene in 1966 was the implementation of the Council's decision to introduce a pilot scheme for paper sack refuse collection. As Mr. White explains in his account, this scheme took in some 800 houses in two areas and from this pilot scheme a considerable amount of experience was gained. As a result, the scheme would have been extended much more quickly and over a wider area had it not been for the "freeze" policy introduced by H.M. Government in the middle of 1966.

Another problem, particularly in a Rural District, is the abandoning of used vehicles. This poses in our District a serious situation and the removal of such rubbish can be a very costly affair. It is high time that this sort of problem, along with those, for example, of flooding and snow clearance, was related financially to the much wider area of at least the County and possibly the country as a whole.

Pages of statistics frighten some people, but I hope you will not be frightened by the table headed "Summary of Inspections". From this page you will glean something of the wide nature of the scope of the work of the Health Department and the very considerable visiting duties which are undertaken by your Staff.

1966 has been an extremely busy year for the Public Health Inspectorate, and I am greatly indebted to Mr. White for his loyal co-operation and the willingness with which he has carried out his duties. This applies also to your other two Inspectors Mr. Elliott and Mr. Barrow, and to the staff of the Health Department.

I am grateful for the interest shown by the Public Health Committee and indeed by the Council as a whole. We work in harmony with all the other Officers of the Council and it is a pleasure to record my gratitude to them.

I have the Honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F.H.M. DUMMER

Medical Officer of Health.

27th June, 1967.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	34,487
Estimated resident population (1966)	25,300
Number of inhabited houses (according to rate books) at the end of 1966	8,455
Rateable value at the end of 1966	£778,017
Sum represented by a penny rate	£3,240

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	282	252	534
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	crude	-	21.10
	corrected-		22.78
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			3.35
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stillbirths	6	4	10
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births			18.38
Total live and still births			544
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) ..	5	1	6
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			11.23
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			11.63
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			5.61
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			5.61
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			23.87
Maternal mortality (including abortion) ..	..	..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	-
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	160	150	310
Death rate per 1,000 population ..	crude	-	12.25
	corrected -		8.94
Death rate for England and Wales ..			11.7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

School Health Service

The School Health Service with school inspections and clinics, the Maternity and Child Welfare Service and the Domiciliary Midwifery Service, are now administered by the Kent County Council and are controlled by the County Medical Officer.

Hospitals

The general hospitals in the area are now administered by one Central Kent Hospital Management Committee, and Preston Hall Hospital Management Committee has been merged in that body. There are, of course, in addition separate Management Committees for Oakwood Hospital and Leybourne Grange Hospital.

The hospitals in general use are Linton Hospital, the West Kent General Hospital, Fant Lane Hospital, the Kent County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital and Preston Hall Hospital. Use is also made of Lenham Chest Hospital and the hospitals covered by the Tunbridge Wells Group including, particularly Pembury Hospital and the Kent & Sussex Hospital at Tunbridge Wells.

There is now no infectious diseases hospital in this area, and cases in the meantime have to be sent primarily to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, which entails a fairly long journey. Although representation has been made to the Regional Hospital Board on this question, there is very little likelihood of improved facilities for infectious diseases being available for this area before the new district hospital - scheduled for after 1970 - is built in the Maidstone area. This will, it is understood, include a wing for infectious diseases.

Since the publication by the Ministry of Health in 1962 of "A Hospital Plan for England and Wales", many discussions have taken place on local requirements and at the present time the whole subject is under continuous review. It has, however, been decided to support the Minister of Health's proposal that the site of the new district hospital should be Preston Hall.

Domestic Help Service

This service is administered by the County Council and is of great value in providing care for aged and disabled patients and thus relieving pressure on the available hospital beds. I often find that by the judicious use of this service, elderly people are given the advantage of essential domestic help, thereby tiding them over a difficulty which, in other circumstances, would undoubtedly require hospitalisation.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

ANALYSIS IN AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-45	46-65	66 & over	TOTAL
Scarlet fever	-	1	3	13	-	1	-	-	-	18
Whooping cough	3	6	7	16	3	1	1	-	-	37
Measles	1	31	35	45	3	-	-	-	-	115
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	38	45	74	6	2	1	4	-	176

A very considerable decrease took place in 1966 in the numbers of notifiable diseases. This is mainly due to the fact that 1966 was not a year of high incidence of measles, although this disease did represent the majority of notifications.

Once again there were no cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or smallpox notified during the year.

1966 was a year without worry in the field of notifiable disease.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS
Scarlet fever	-	4	1	2	2	1	2	-	-	1	1	4	18
Whooping cough	-	3	1	-	5	3	1	-	3	1	14	6	37
Measles	1	1	1	1	33	29	11	11	-	2	14	11	115
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	8	5	3	40	33	15	12	3	4	29	22	176

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table shows the poliomyelitis vaccination figures for 1966 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

YEAR	PRIMARY	REINFORCING
1966	120	-
1965	374	-
1964	47	-
1963	16	-
1962	3	10
1961 - 1959	15	266
1958 - 1950	8	9
TOTALS	583	285

During the year 583 persons completed an oral course of poliomyelitis vaccine and another 285 had reinforcing doses. In all, 10,267 persons in the Rural District have now had a complete course of vaccine.

Although this scheme is still restricted to persons up to the age of 40 years, those who have any reason to believe that they are in particular danger from this disease can be vaccinated according to their special circumstances.

Vaccination can be carried out through the School Health Service, through Clinics, through the School Health Service and through the General Practitioner Service, and I would urge all parents to ensure that their children are protected against this terrible disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1966, based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health.

Year of Birth	Primary		Reinforcing	
	Triple	Diph/Tet	Triple	Diph/Tet
1966	229	7	-	-
1965	333	6	5	1
1964	16	-	187	44
1963	6	2	81	11
1962	2	-	17	15
1961 - 1959	2	2	96	157
1958 - 1950	-	1	1	1
TOTALS	588	18	389	231

Once again the figures for immunisation show an increase over last years's. The table above, deals with the triple immunisation which includes protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and with the dual immunisation against tetanus and diphtheria.

The number of primary immunisations rose from 498 in 1965 to 606 in 1966. The reinforcing doses were also substantially in excess of last year's totals. This is a trend which I welcome and as long as it is maintained, we shall be free of the major ravages of an epidemic of diphtheria.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The following table shows the smallpox vaccination figures for 1966, based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Owing to the new arrangements made by the Kent County Council, the following figures are the only statistics now available on smallpox vaccination.

PRIMARY VACCINATION 1 YEAR	RE-VACCINATION SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS
452	5

The records of vaccinations supplied now by the County Council are only those which apply to primary vaccinations carried out under the County Council's own arrangements, and re-vaccinations carried out between the ages of 5 and 8 years.

I am therefore not in a position to know the total numbers in either category. The statistics, although they are submitted to you, are in my opinion not of much value, but they are presented to you merely because they are a return which is sent to me by the County Medical Officer.

I would, however, stress that it is of value to have infants vaccinated against smallpox, and for people who are going abroad to maintain their state of protection by re-vaccination at intervals of three years.

In 1965 the number of primary vaccinations was 365. In 1966 it was 452.

It is important to remember that restrictions on entry into foreign countries very often come into operation at extremely short notice. It is therefore of benefit to all travellers abroad to ensure that they have valid International Certificates of Vaccination, and this means that the certificate must bear a date not more than three years from the date of the proposed journey.

TUBERCULOSIS

I am indebted to Dr. D.L. Pugh, the Chest Physician, for the following details of the number of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis examined during the year, and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. These figures related to the area of the Chest Clinic, which corresponds with the area of the four authorities, Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D., and Malling R.D.

- (a) Number of contacts seen during 1966, of newly notified cases of tuberculosis 164
- (b) Number of contacts, seen during 1966, of cases notified prior to 1966 608
- (c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis Nil
- (d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis Nil

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

The table above shows the remarkable position which tuberculosis has now reached in your District, with only two new cases notified during the year, and only one death from this cause.

This is an indication of the energy with which follow-up takes place in the District and the success of the domiciliary treatment.

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer in the Maidstone Rural District during the past ten years is given below :-

1957	..	..	..	55
1958	..	..	..	42
1959	..	..	..	47
1960	..	..	..	51
1961	..	..	..	52
1962	..	..	..	45
1963	..	..	..	49
1964	..	..	..	50
1965	..	..	..	54
1966	..	..	..	59

Deaths from cancer in 1966, distributed according to sites :-

Site	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of stomach	4	2	6
Cancer of lung, bronchus	9	3	12
Cancer of breast	-	3	3
Cancer of uterus	-	1	1
Other sites	18	19	37
TOTALS	31	28	59

Deaths from cancer in 1966, distributed according to age groups :-

Age Groups	Male	Female
0 - 4	-	-
5 - 14	1	1
15 - 24	-	-
25 - 34	1	-
35 - 44	-	1
45 - 54	3	1
55 - 64	10	9
65 - 74	10	7
75 and over	6	9
TOTALS	31	28

FOOD POISONING

During 1966 two cases of food poisoning were formally notified, and one case was investigated as a result of informal notification.

One case arose from an outbreak of Salmonella infection in the childrens' ward of a local hospital. It was not possible to trace the source of infection in the other two families.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

It was not necessary during the year to issue any restrictive Notices under these Regulations in order to prevent the spread of infection through the handling of food.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

During 1966 one person was admitted to hospital in pursuance of a Magistrate's Order obtained under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts. This was an old lady of 80 years who was living on her own and suffering from grave chronic disease.

She was unable to care for herself and was admitted to Linton Hospital, where she died two months later.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1966

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Accidental death	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Asphyxia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Broncopneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital abnormalities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prematurity	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
TOTALS	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	6

In 1965 the infantile mortality was the lowest yet recorded in your District. In 1966 there was one more death, bringing the infantile mortality rate to 11.23. This is still considerably lower than that of the nation as a whole at 19.0.

In the above table there was at least one death which was entirely unavoidable and the final figure is still a very low one for the high birth rate prevailing in Maidstone Rural District.

TOTAL DEATHS, 1966

Cause	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	2	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	33	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
20. Other heart disease	11	18
21. Other circulatory disease	4	7
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	12	4
24. Bronchitis	8	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	27
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34. All other accidents	3	1
35. Suicide	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
TOTALS	160	150

DEATHS PER MONTH IN EACH PARISH

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS
Barming	1	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	9
Bearsted	1	5	7	5	2	6	3	3	5	5	6	7	55
Boughton Monchelsea	2	1	2	1	-	2	2	3	2	1	-	-	16
Coxheath	2	1	4	3	2	-	1	-	1	2	1	3	21
Linton Hospital	8	10	11	10	4	8	5	1	4	2	5	8	76
East Farleigh	1	-	3	2	1	1	1	-	3	-	1	1	14
West Farleigh	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Hunton	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Linton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Loose	-	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	4	15
Marden	3	1	3	7	1	3	1	2	3	3	3	1	31
Nettlestead	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	8
Otham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Staplehurst	1	3	4	2	2	-	1	1	2	3	1	9	29
Teston	3	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	8
Yalding	-	1	5	4	-	1	1	4	1	-	1	2	20
TOTALS	22	25	44	39	17	25	18	15	23	21	19	42	310

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Your Senior Public Health Inspector has furnished the following details of work which comes under his direct day to day control.

The year has presented no unusual problems and the work of the department has been devoted to the numerous routine aspects of environmental health. As in recent years, cleansing and refuse collection has required a great deal of attention to ensure, as far as possible, a service acceptable to the public. Employment of labour in these sections has presented the main difficulty, but it is of some interest to note that some relief has been afforded by the implementation of the pilot paper sack refuse collection system.

For the first time in the history of the department a Student Public Health Inspector has been employed and, of necessity, the Public Health Inspectors have had, on occasions, to devote some of their time to instruction.

Further comment on individual aspects of departmental work are made under the respective headings.

WATER SUPPLIES

There were no complaints concerning the quality of water supply during the year 1966 and there is every indication that the supply has been satisfactory in quantity. As in previous years, there still remains a small number of properties not connected to a mains supply provided by the Mid Kent Water Company or the Maidstone Waterworks Company. In each instance this is due entirely to the isolated nature of the properties concerned.

Sampling of water supply to the area continues to be carried out as a routine measure by the Water Companies involved, samples being obtained at the source of supply and point of distribution. All sources of supply are outside the Maidstone Rural District with the exception of the East Farleigh Pumping Station. Samples are being taken of the raw water and water following treatment prior to supply, these samples being submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analyses. A typical result from a chemical analysis is as follows :-

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Ammonia saline	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Ammonia "Albuminoid"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
"Oxygen Absorbed" in 15 minutes at 27°C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.25
"Oxygen Absorbed" in 4 hours at 27°C.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.55
Nitrogen from nitrites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Nitrogen from nitrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.4
Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37.0
Total Solid Residue	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	547
Total Hardness (as calcium carbonate)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	380
Lead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Iron in solution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Total iron	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Zinc	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction (pH value)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.6
Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bright & colourless
Sediment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Opinion : This water is of high organic purity.

Additional routine water samples are also collected by our Public Health Department, these samples being obtained from the supply provided by the Water Companies' mains. In addition, the following samples from suspect supplies were also tested :-

- (1) Percolation of water into a cellar
 - (2) Private lake
 - (3) Domestic supply containing extraneous matter.
-
- (1) Investigation revealed that the source of flooding was due to a defective and leaking mains water supply.
 - (2) In this case a request to sample was made to see whether or not the lake could safely be re-stocked with fish. The results revealed no definite evidence of pollution, but the lack of dissolved oxygen, due to decayed vegetation, showed the water to be unsuitable for fish. Advice was given regarding cleansing of the water in question.

- (3) The householder involved was concerned over the possible contamination of the water supply on discovering dead rodents in the roof storage tank. Several samples of water were obtained for bacteriological purposes, but no pollution was found. As a precautionary measure, however, arrangements were made with the Water Company concerned for chlorination of the entire water system.

Examination of Water Supplies during the year :-

	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Statutory supply undertakings	6	6	-	3	3	-
Private sources pipe to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private sources	2	-	2	-	-	-

The following table, supplied by the Water Companies concerned, gives indication of (a) the number of dwelling houses and (b) the estimated number of the population supplied from public water mains :-

Parish	Houses Supplied (a)	Estimated Population (b)
Barming	402	1,435
Bearsted	1,437	4,420
Boughton Monchelsea	442	1,370
Coxheath	908	3,140
East Farleigh	422	1,225
West Farleigh	151	450
Hunton	175	550
Linton	183	525
Loose	696	2,045
Marden	850	2,515
Nettlestead	194	710
Otham	107	350
Staplehurst	1,110	3,330
Teston	214	645
Yalding	876	2,590

Information received from the Water Companies indicates that they have been involved in the laying of 2,749 yards of new water mains to additional properties within the area. Indication of the size of mains laid is contained in the following table :-

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
Barming	35	3"	Maidstone Waterworks Company
"	174	4"	" " "
"	146	6"	" " "
Bearsted	174	4"	" " "
"	146	6"	" " "
East Farleigh	21	3"	" " "
"	180	4"	" " "
Bearsted	180	3"	Mid Kent Water Company
"	995	4"	" " " "
Boughton Mon.	178	3"	" " " "
" "	323	4"	" " " "
Linton	323	3"	" " " "
"	94	4"	" " " "
Staplehurst	103	3"	" " " "

The Fluoride Content of Water Supplies

The fluoride content is negligible and is less than 0.1 parts per million.

Swimming Baths

Schools situated within the parishes of Loose, Staplehurst and Marden are provided with swimming pools for use of children. These pools were kept under supervision during their use and 4 samples of the water were taken as a routine precautionary measure. In each instance the results obtained were satisfactory.

REFUSE AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

The following is a general report on both services and, as in previous years, the shortage of labour has produced the main problems in maintaining a regular service which is acceptable to the public.

In the year under review 3 cesspool emptying tankers were in use, as opposed to 4 in the previous year, the 4th tanker being held in reserve to cover withdrawal of vehicles due to routine maintenance or mechanical failures.

During the year a pilot scheme of paper sack refuse collection was implemented. This scheme took in some 800 houses in 2 areas, the aim being to gain experience with the varying types of development within the district and to assess productivity. At the end of the year the scheme had proved to be successful on the following points :-

- (1) Productivity
- (2) Hygiene
- (3) Acceptance by refuse collection staff
- (4) Acceptance by householders.

It was hoped to extend the scheme by a further 2,000 premises, but Government requests to restrict expenditure has delayed this project until 1967.

It is important to note that, similar to the past few years, the number of new dwellings erected within the Maidstone Rural area has increased by approximately 379. Nevertheless, there has not been the need to engage additional staff and it is felt that this is due in some measure to the savings made by paper sack collection.

As mentioned elsewhere in the report, labour difficulties have been the main cause for concern. To give some indication of this, the following data will be of interest :-

Labour Turnover

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Employed during the year	21	19	26
Employees leaving during the year	14	17	27
<u>Holidays</u>	183 days	160 days	233 days
<u>Sickness</u>	151 days	242 days	430 days
<u>Absenteeism</u>	39 days	55 days	36 days

It will be agreed that the total days lost are formidable. The fact that the service has been provided without any undue delay or disruption is due, in no small measure, to those employees and supervisory staff who have served this Council for a number of years.

Manpower

The establishment in connection with the Public Cleansing Services consists of 30 men employed as follows :-

- 23 men on refuse collection
- 1 tractor driver engaged on the refuse tip
- 6 men on cesspool emptying.

Abandoned Vehicles

Removal of abandoned vehicles is dealt with under the Removal of Vehicles (England and Wales) Regulations, 1961. This problem continues to increase even though facilities are provided for the public to dispose of old vehicles on the Council's refuse tip. It is felt that much of this problem can be related to the itinerant traveller/scrap merchant who strips the valuable metal and then dumps the shell which ultimately has to be removed by this authority at public expense. It would appear that the only real solution to this problem is uniform action at national or county level.

Bulky Refuse

As in previous years, special collections have been arranged where the items involved can be collected by the refuse collectors as part of their normal routine. Of necessity these collections take place in the evenings or on Saturdays on an overtime basis. The income received from such collections during the year amounted to £145.

Litter Bins

Litter bins are situated throughout the district and serious attempts are made to see that they are emptied as often as may be required. Nevertheless, one often finds litter bins filled to overflowing within hours of emptying and the real solution to this problem in the future might well be the employment of staff and transport to deal solely with this task.

Salvage

Collectors are encouraged by the Council to collect salvage and the incentive amounts to 50% of the income derived. However, the return on salvage at the present time is so insignificant that to all intents and purposes, no salvage takes place.

Refuse Disposal

Disposal is carried out in the Laddingford area by the controlled tipping method. The Drott/Tractor Excavator has enabled effective control to be maintained and has considerably improved the appearance of the tip. Expenditure on maintenance and repair has been high, but can be attributed to the conditions under which the plant operates.

Disposal facilities for trade refuse from industrial and commercial concerns continues to be afforded and the income derived from these sources amounted to £990.

Cesspool Emptying

The demands on the service are still considerable and are due, in part, to the erection of new properties which are served by cesspools and, also, to the need for more frequent emptyings at those premises which have been improved by the provision of new bathroom amenities. During the year there has also been several occasions when emergency measures have been required at various sewage works and pumping stations. It is inevitable under such circumstances that delay will occur. Nevertheless, it has been possible to reduce the waiting period between request and clearance to 7/10 working days. Some relief is to be expected with the completion of the Teston and Nettlestead main drainage system.

Cesspool Emptying (cont'd.)

It is hoped by the Council that some improvement in the service may be afforded to those ratepayers whose properties are drained by cesspools and investigations to this end are in progress, but it may well be that the only solution will be the acquisition of additional staff and cesspool tankers.

Vehicles

Cleansing and refuse vehicles are garaged at the Coxheath Depot (with the exception of the 2 vans used by the Cleansing Foreman and the Rodent Operator and the Drott Excavator which is stationed at the Laddingford Tip). The vehicles garaged at Coxheath are as follows :-

7 refuse collection vehicles (including 1 spare)

4 cesspool emptying tankers (including 1 spare)

Of the refuse collection fleet, 1 vehicle was purchased in 1955 and another in 1958. 2 of the cesspool emptying tankers were purchased in 1964, 1 in 1960 and the spare vehicle in 1958. The working life of the older vehicles is drawing to a close and replacements will need to be considered in the not too distant future.

Drainage and Sanitation

The main drainage system provided in the parishes of Teston, Watringbury and Nettlestead was, in the main, completed towards the end of 1966. Enlargement of the Staplehurst sewage disposal works was almost completed in the same year and should be fully operative in the early part of 1967.

GENERAL STATISTICS

HOUSING

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	170
Number of other visits under Housing Acts	..	..				229
Number of drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	68
Number of drainage visits	..	..	..	..	..	562
Number of visits made in respect of Improvement Grants and Building Regulations	..	..				1,194
Number of visits made under the Rent Act	..	..	..			8

FOOD AND WATER

Number of Slaughterhouse and meat inspection visits	..					331
Number of visits re Water Supplies	..	..	..	..		37
Number of visits re Milk and Dairies	..	..	..			5
Number of visits re Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..			531

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of visits re Infectious Diseases			139
-----------------------------------------	----	----	----	--	--	-----

GENERAL - PUBLIC HEALTH

Number of visits under Public Health Acts	..	..				376
Refuse Disposal and Collection	..	..	..	..		3,068
Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	67
Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	353
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	18
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	..					216
Hop Pickers' Camps	..	..	..	..	..	80
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	44
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	223
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	203
Removal of Vehicles (England and Wales) Regulations, 1961						10
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	127
Diseases of Animals and Waste Food Order Visits	..					2
Verminous premises visited	..	..	..	..	..	1
Interviews with Builders, Architects, Owners, etc.	..					283
Collection and delivery of samples to Public Health Laboratory	..					63
Revisits to premises under notice	..	..	..	..		98
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	..	..	..	..		19
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	..		260
Noise Abatement Act	..	..	..	..	..	6
National Assistance Act	..	..	..	..	..	2

Total	..	<u>8,793</u>
-------	----	--------------

GENERAL STATISTICS

HOUSING

Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Notices completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	53

HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS

Walls and ceilings	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Rising and penetrating dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Repairs to external walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Repairs to defective windows and doors	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
General repairs to roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Provision for food storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Repairs to staircases	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Repair or renewal of fireplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Cooking facilities provided and/or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Repointing to brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Repair or replacement of floors	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Provision of adequate ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Provision of adequate lighting	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Enlargement of window areas	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Provision of fuel storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Provision of dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Decoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Provision of hot water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Provision of baths and bathrooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Provision of wash hand basins	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Provision of damp proof course	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Provision of adequate water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

DRAINAGE

Provision of septic tanks	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Provision of cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Repairs to eaves guttering	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Sinks provided and/or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Repairs to closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Provision of inspection covers	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Provision of flush closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Repairs to drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Provision of new drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	50

HOUSING

I	1 (a)	Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects, (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	170
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	1,593
	2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses, (included under sub-section 1 above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	0
	3 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
	4 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	64
II	Remedy of Defects during the year, without the service of formal notice.		
	1 (a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	63
III	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.		
	A	Proceedings under section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
	1	Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs	0
	2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices - a - By Owners	0
		b - By Local Authority in default of owners	0
	B	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.	
	1	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
	2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices - a - By Owners	1
		b - By Local Authority in default of owners	3

C	Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1957.	
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	0
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	7
3	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
4	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	2

IV Housing Act, 1957, Part 4, Overcrowding.

A (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	7
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	31
B (1)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
C (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	34
D	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

Comparison of Summary Figures with 1965

1966 required no extensive slum clearance programme. Properties requiring action under the Housing Acts were dealt with individually on considering the particular circumstances. At the close of the year there were still a number of families which had not been re-housed although the premises which they occupy had been included on the slum clearance programme in previous years.

There has been a continuance during the year for property owners to take advantage of the Improvement Grants. Invariably improvements have been carried out in conjunction with essential repairs and thus the standards and general condition of housing within the district have been maintained to a reasonable level.

Improvement schemes carried out on properties within the area have resulted in the provision of the following amenities :-

49	Ventilated food stores
48	Hot water supplies
49	Baths and Bathrooms
50	Wash hand basins
49	Water closets

The following details regarding the various types of Improvement Grant will be of interest. It will be appreciated that each application involves a great deal of time with the applicant, architect and builder throughout all stages and many visits are required to ensure the approved works comply with the Building Regulations.

Applications for Grant have decreased from a total of 55 approved in 1965 to 51 in 1966, resulting in the improvement of 49 dwellings.

General Statistics regarding Improvement Grants made by this Council

Total amount approved by the Council up to the 31st December, 1966 :-

Discretionary Grants	..	£84,379
Standard Grants	..	£32,341
Total	..	<u>£116,720</u>

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Standard

	Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted
1. No. of applications Received	19	9
" " " Approved	19	9
" " " Refused	-	-
2. No. of dwellings improved	17	10

3. Amount paid in Grants	..	..	..	..	£5,008. 14. 3.
4. Average Grant per house	..	..	..	..	£185. 10. 6.
5. Amenities provided (a) fixed bath					25
(b) shower					-
(c) wash hand basin					26
(d) hot water supply (to any fittings)					26
(e) water closet (1) within dwelling					24
(2) accessible from dwelling					-
(f) food store					24

Discretionary

	Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted
1. No. of applications Received	12	11
" " " Approved	12	11
" " " Refused	-	-
2. No. of dwellings improved	12	10

3. Amount paid in Grants	..	..	..	..	£7,748. 0. 0.
4. Average Grant per house	..	..	..	..	£352. 3. 7.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits made by Inspectors 139

Reports made to M.O.H. on cases of reported infectious
diseases :-

Scarlet Fever 8

Food Poisoning 4

Sonne Dysentery 2

Contacts of confirmed case of Typhoid 1

As a result of investigations several visits to the
Public Health Laboratory at Preston Hall were required for
the routine collection and delivery of bacteriological samples.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	..	83
Factories without mechanical power	..	..	..	..	1
Inspections of Factories with mechanical power	..	..			44
Inspections of Factories without mechanical power	..				0
Inspections of Builders' sites for Sanitary Accommodation					12
Inspections of closed Factory premises or premises with no employees	..	..	..		0
Factories with mechanical power -					
Informal Notices served					4
Factories with mechanical power -					
Informal Notices completed					4
Factories without mechanical power -					
Informal Notices served					0
Factories without mechanical power -					
Informal Notices completed					0
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	0

It has not been necessary to serve any formal notices under the Factories Act legislation. Minor defects noted were drawn to the occupiers attention on an informal basis and any requirements carried out without the necessity for further action.

Outworkers premises inspected during the year revealed no adverse conditions.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1966
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MAIDSTONE
IN THE COUNTY OF KENT

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	44	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	12	-	-
TOTAL	96	56	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of pro- secutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of ins- tances of work in un- wholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing)Making apparel)etc.,	2	-	-	-	-	-
)Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-
)and	-	-	-	-	-	-
)Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace cur- tains and nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and fur- niture hangings	2	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron & Steel An- chors & Grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, Latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Cont'd.)

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	8					
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	12	-	-	-	-	-

CARAVAN SITES

<u>Site</u>	<u>Proprietor or Owner</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Caravans</u>
Enterprise Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. H. Smart	25
Hartridge Farm Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. K.A. and Mrs. M.R.G. Chambers	110
The Retreat, Nettlestead	Mrs. P. Lamb and Mr. R.W. Lamb	75
Slaughterhouse Lane, Staplehurst	Mrs. G.N. Russell	2
Stilebridge, Marden	Maidstone R.D.C.	12

Caravan Sites for Seasonal Use Only

Enterprise Caravan Site, East Farleigh	Mr. H. Smart	15
Medway Wharf Site, Nettlestead	Mr. A.C. Buffery, Medway Wharf Ltd.	10
Twyford Boat Yard Site, Yalding	Mr. D.S. Chuter, 102, Blithdale Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.	18
Hampstead Cottage Caravan Park, Yalding	Mr. C.H. Sparrow	80
Riverside Cafe, Twyford Bridge, Yalding	Mrs. R.C. Morris, 22, Kings Road, Fleet, Hants.	2
The Anchor Inn, Yalding	Mr. D. Brenchley and Mrs. M. Brenchley	3

Summary of data

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	175
Number of licensed sites	..	..	..	..	..	10
Applications for licences	..	..	..	..	..	3
Applications for licences refused	..	..	..	..	..	0

Routine visits have been made to all registered sites at various times throughout the year. No adverse conditions were found to exist and the operation of the sites concerned did not contravene any of the Council's conditions attached to the site licences issued.

The Maidstone R.D.C. caravan site for travellers at Stilebridge is now well-established. There were no complaints concerning occupation of the site and use of amenities provided, but there were occasions when clearance of litter on grass verges in the vicinity of the camp had to be undertaken.

HOP PICKERS' CAMPS

Total number of Hop Pickers' Camps in use	..	..	45
Number of huts in use (estimated )	..	..	575 + 68 caravans
Estimated number of pickers	..	..	1,291
Number of inspections	..	..	80

A further reduction in the number of hop pickers' camps in use and the number of persons occupying such camps is apparent. Inspections involved visits to some 45 individual camps and, as in previous years, the reduction can be attributed to further mechanisation within the industry.

It is estimated that some 1,291 pickers were involved and there has also been a tendency for many of the pickers to provide their own accommodation in the form of caravans. It has also been noted that, of the total number of people sited on the farms, only relatively few members of each family were involved with the actual picking of hops.

This year no serious contravention of the byelaws occurred, although it was found that one camp was occupied after the close of the season i.e., 30th November, and action was required in the case of one other camp to ensure the clearance of refuse after vacation.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Routine observations of industrial plant were taken during the year and 2 complaints concerning premises were received. In 1 case the complaint could not be confirmed, whilst in the other advice on remedial measures resulted in a marked improvement.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

At the present time there are 5 establishments registered and 19 visits to these premises were made during the year. In particular, before the renewal or any registration, special attention is paid to the conditions under which animals are boarded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises in the District

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Food Shops (excluding Butchers)			..	..	..	..	98
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Total							<u>185</u>

Number of Visits and Inspections

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Food Shops (excluding Butchers)			..	..	..	..	248
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Total							<u>368</u>

Routine inspection has increased on last year's figures, this being due, in part, to an increase in shop premises and also to concentrated efforts to visit each and every establishment to give advice on the handling and storage of foodstuffs and to deliver a Clean Food handbook provided free of charge by the Council.

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness in food premises has been maintained and in several instances redecoration and improvement of premises has occurred.

SHOPS ACT

Number of Shops (including Public Houses) 220
Number of inspections re Shops Act(including Public Houses) 223

During the year 1966, 223 inspections were made of shops within the district to check compliance with the provisions of the Act.

No complaints were received during the year concerning trading outside of permitted hours.

Contaminated Foodstuff

During the year 8 complaints concerning contaminated foodstuff were brought to the attention of the department. In each case the particular circumstances were fully investigated and reported to the Public Health Committee, but in no cases were legal proceedings instigated.

MILK SUPPLIES

Number of registered distributors	..	..	..	..	35
Number of registered dairies	..	..	..	..	Nil

The function of sampling milk supplies at retailers' premises is the responsibility of the Kent County Council.

Statistics submitted by the Kent County Council indicated that some 23 samples have been obtained from retailers within the Maidstone Rural District.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Inspections under the above legislation relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, seating arrangements and safety provisions, have again increased over the total number of inspections made during 1965. The inspections involved are the responsibility of Mr. J. Barrow, Additional Public Health Inspector, and, because of their complexity there has been the need for specialisation and as a result of this, a great deal of his time has needed to be directed to this particular subject. A copy of the report sent to the Ministry of Labour follows :-

TABLE A Registrations and general inspections	TOTALS				
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices			11	96	78
Retail shops			2	19	16
Wholesale shops, warehouses			4	67	51
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens			3	4	4
Fuel storage depots			2	6	7
			-	-	-
Class of premises		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE B - Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises

260

TABLE C Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace				
	Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)		
	Offices	85		
	Retail shops	218		
	Wholesale depts., warehouses	17		
	Catering establishments open to the public	15		
	Canteens	-		
	Fuel storage depots	-		
	Total	335		
		Total Males		
		Total Females		
		Total		
		Total		
		Total		

TABLE D - Exemptions

Class of premises (1)	No. of exemptions current at 31st December (2)	No. of exemptions granted or extended during the year (3)	No. of applications refused or exemptions withdrawn during the year (4)	No. of cases in Cols. (3) and (4) where employees opposed application (5)	Appeals to Court against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption	
					No. made (6)	No. allowed (7)
Part I - Space (Sec. 5(2))						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part II - Temperature (Sec.6)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part III - Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots						
Part IV - Washing Facilities (Sec.10)						
Offices Retail shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establishments open to public Fuel storage depots						

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of licensed Slaughterhouses 2
 Number of premises cleansed during the year 2

MEAT INSPECTION

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>No. of Animals Slaughtered</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
West End, Marden	1,018	74%
High Street, Staplehurst	366	26%
Total	<u>1,384</u>	<u>100%</u>

Carcases Inspected and Condemed	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number killed	232	-	2	680	470	1,384
Number <u>not</u> inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri</u>						
Whole carcasses condemed	-	-	-	-	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemed	27	-	-	36	57	120
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemed	-	-	-	-	1	1
<u>Cysticeri</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemed	1	-	-	1	-	2
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	1
Generalized and totally condemed	-	-	-	-	-	-

All carcasses examined have been for the trade of the butchers owning the slaughterhouses. The customary high standard and quality has been maintained and, as in previous years, co-operation between the owners and the department has been on an amicable basis.

In accordance with Government requirements, 100% inspection of all carcasses slaughtered has been achieved.

MEAT INSPECTION

Reason for Condemnation

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Completely condemned</u>	<u>Partially condemned</u>
Actinobacillosis	0	1
Abscesses	0	10
Pleurisy	0	9
Ascaris Lumbricoides	0	27
Pneumonia	0	5
Pericarditis	0	9
Parasitic Infection	0	24
Cirrhosis	0	5
Cysticercus Bovis	0	1
Peritonitis	0	7
Congestion	0	6
Fractures and Bruising	0	6
Arthritis	0	1
Liver Fluke	0	17
Cysticercus Ovis	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	1
Pyremia	1	0

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

The number of registered plants within the area has decreased and no complaints concerning the operation of the remaining plants have been received. Visits to ensure that operators meet their obligations relating to this legislation have been carried out on a routine basis.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling
Officers within the MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT
during the year ended 31st December, 1966

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
Beechams Powders	1
Bread and Butter	1
Butter Beans	1
Cognac	1
Compound Syrup of Glycerine, Lemon and Honey ..	1
Cough Pastilles	1
Cranberry Sauce	1
Crystallised Fruit	1
Dairy Butter including imported butter	1
Essence of Chicken	1
Fruit Sauce	1
Fruit Topping (18% butterfat)	1
Gin	2
Ground Rice	1
Ice Cream	2
Indigestion Powder	1
Instant Tea 100% Pure	1
Instant Whip Vanilla Flavour	1
Jelly Babies	1
Lard	1
Leicester Cheese	1
Lemons	1
Milk	23
Malt Vinegar	2
Mandarin Oranges in Syrup	1
Margarine	1
Meat Pie	1
Mincemeat with Brandy	1
Oatmeal	1
Opal Toffees	1
Orange Drink	1
Ovaltine	1
Oxtail Flavour Soup	1
Pain Reliever	1
Parsley and Thyme	1
Peeled Tomatoes	1
Pickle	1
Potted Sardine in Tomato	1
Processed Peas	1
Raspberries in Heavy Syrup	1
Ready Cooked Pease Pudding	1
Rice (pre-packed)	1
Stuffed Pork Roll	1
Steak and Kidney Pie	1
Tea	1
Throat Pastilles	1
Whisky	6
Yoghourt	1
Total ..	<u>78</u>

Summary of Samples

	<u>Number Taken</u>	<u>Results of Analyses</u>	
		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Milk	23	23	-
Drugs	6	6	-
Spirits	9	8	1
Others	40	38	2

Unsatisfactory Samples

Gin

Gin purchased from licensed premises, labelled to be 70° proof, found on analysis to be 67.9° proof. Licensee cautioned.

Rice

Pre-packed rice sold to a customer and found to contain two rodent droppings. Proceedings, instituted against the packers of the rice, heard at the Bearsted Magistrates' Court on the 13th April, 1966, resulted in a conviction with a fine of £20 and £5. 5. 0. advocate's fee.

Yoghourt

Customer's complaint of the finding of mould growth on the surface of the yoghurt in the carton. Enquiries showed this yoghurt to be of old stock and a caution was issued to the suppliers.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 (Cont'd.)

ICE CREAM

<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test Group</u>	<u>Pathogenic organisms cultivated</u>
15	I	0
2	II	0
0	III	0
0	IV	0

Samples of ice cream sold within the area have been obtained during the year. Such samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Endeavours are made to ensure that a reasonable cross section of various manufacturers' products are sampled as a safeguard.

It will be noted that all the results fall within Groups I and II which indicates a satisfactory product.

In the Annual Report for 1965 comment was made on the delivery of ice cream to retailers in a soft condition. During this year attention has been paid to see that such practice was not continued and, with only 1 exception, the situation overall was one of improvement.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Inspections and Surveys made under Rodent Control

<u>Properties other than Sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	8,358	1,056
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	697	35
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	415	35
(ii) Mice	179	28
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	253	12
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	169	4
(ii) Mice	84	5

Sewers

During the year no sewers were found to be infested by rats.

Rodent control during the year has involved the treatment of private dwellings, farms and the local authority's own premises i.e., refuse tip and sewage plants. Test baiting of all sewers in the district was again carried out and no signs of infestation were found. In view of the excellent results obtained over the past few years, application was made to the Ministry to allow this authority to dispense with the test baiting of sewers for 3 years and this has been agreed.

The contract system has continued much the same as in previous years and the income from this source has amounted to £215 which can be offset against the total cost of providing this service.

Members of the public have, on various occasions, reported their satisfaction with the efficient manner in which the Rodent Operator has dealt with their problems.

At 1 property where treatment was in progress the occupier reported the sudden death of 2 dogs and several chicken and implied that this Council was responsible. Detailed investigations revealed that the dogs in question had been the subjects of attack by other animals, whilst the condition of the chicken was attributed to a poultry disease.

Birth-rates, Death-rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year, 1966

Area	Rate per 1,000 population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population				Rate per 1,000		
		Live births	All causes	Tuberculosis	Cancer of lung	Other cancer	Live Births	Related Births
							Total deaths under 1 year	Stillbirths
England and Wales	17.7	11.7	0.04	0.56	1.68	19.0	15.4	
Hollingbourn R.D.	21.09	9.65	0.10	0.37	1.16	11.04	10.92	
Maidstone R.D.	22.78	8.94	0.03	0.43	1.85	11.23	18.38	
Malling R.D.	22.96	10.64	0.08	0.38	0.93	11.79	17.38	
Maidstone Borough	19.12	10.59	0.09	0.58	1.64	9.84	16.93	

GENERAL SUMMARY

Estimated resident population, 1966	..	..	25,300
Area (in acres)	..	..	34,487
Density	..	..	.733
Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 population			
Crude	..	..	21.10
Corrected		..	22.78
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population			
Crude	..	..	12.25
Corrected		..	8.94
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Births	..	..	282 252 534
Deaths	..	..	160 150 310
Excess of births over deaths			122 102 224
Tuberculosis death rate -			
Pulmonary	..	..	0.03
Non-pulmonary	..	..	Nil
Cancer death rate per 1,000 population		..	2.33

INDEX

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	38
Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality ..	49
Cancer	12
Caravan Sites	37
Clean Air Act	38
Comparison of Summary figures with 1965	29
Cesspool Emptying	23,24
Deaths per month in each Parish	16
Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957 ..	44
Drainage and Sanitation	24
Factories and Workplaces	33
Food and Drugs Act	45,46,47
Food Poisoning	13
Food Premises - Inspection and Supervision of ..	39,40
General Provision of Health Services	5
General Statistics - Drainage	26
General Statistics - Housing	26
General Statistics - Housing Defects	26
General Statistics - Improvement Grants	29
General Statistics - Infectious Diseases	31
General Summary	50
Hop Pickers' Camps	38
Housing	27,28
Ice Cream	47
Immunisation	9
Improvement Grants	29,30
Infant Mortality	14
Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases	
Analysis in Age Groups	6
Monthly Distribution	7
Litter Bins	23
Meat Inspection	43,44
Meat Inspection - Reason for Condemnation	44
Members of the Public Health Committee	1
Milk Supplies	40
National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951	13
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	40,41,42
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	8
Presentation of Annual Report by M.O.H.	2,3
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953 ..	13
Public Health Officers	1
Return by M.O.H. to H.M. Inspector of Factories ..	33,34,35,36
Rodent Control	48
Refuse and Public Cleansing Services	22,23,24
Sanitary Circumstances in the Area	17
Salvage	23
Shops - Inspection and Supervision of	39,40
Slaughterhouses	43
Smallpox Vaccination	10
Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area	4
Summary of Inspections	25
Total Deaths 1966	15
Tuberculosis	11
Vital Statistics - Extracts from	4
Water Supplies	18,19,20,21

